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OFFICIAL INFORMAL NOFORN, FOR AMB, DCM, POL AND CG'S

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/20/2014

TAGS: AMGT, CA

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL - DAILY ACTIVITY REPORTS,
JULY 12 - JULY 19, 2004

CLASSIFIED BY: WHA/CAN DIRECTOR TERRY BREESE REASON: 1.4(D)

1. (U) Daily Activity Report, July 14

2. (U) Alaska Railroad

Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski, attending the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWR) annual conference in Victoria, BC, made a pitch for his grand vision of a railroad, pipeline and fiber-optic cable linking Alaska to the Lower 48 through Yukon and British Columbia. According to the press reports, he met a decidedly cool reception. BC Economic Development Minister John Les said BC supported "the general concept" but was not interested in putting public money into the project. BC is in the process of unloading loss-making provincially owned BC Rail to now-privatized Canadian National. (Murkowski)

complained in his speech about the lack of a response from Ottawa. (Breese)

3. (SBU) RCMP knew of Arar detention five days before DFAIT, Canadian Embassy

The Ottawa Citizen (July 13) reported on a newly obtained RCMP document that shows the U.S. Embassy informed the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Mounties of the Arar detention the day it happened, two weeks earlier than was previously made public. The article also reveals that the Mounties never informed the Department of Foreign Affairs or Canada's Washington Embassy. Instead, Arar's brother alerted DFAIT that Arar had not arrived in Montreal as had been planned. The article argues, "The RCMP briefing note goes farther than any evidence yet made public to show the close links between the RCMP and American officials in Mr. Arar's case." We notice that the inquiry is receiving a more complete timeline and information from the RCMP than anything the Department of State is receiving from the Department of Justice. (Clifton)

4. (U) Daily Activity Report, Thursday, July 15

5. (C) Iran-Canada Spat

Canada has recalled its Ambassador to Tehran after Iran refused to allow the Canadian Embassy to observe the trial of an Iranian intelligence officer charged over the death in custody of Iranian-Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi. Graham called Tehran's action "completely unacceptable behaviour" and said Canada had learned the trial would be closed from newspapers, not the Iranian MFA.

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8. (U) Daily Activity Report, Thursday, July 16

9. (U) Great Lakes Interagency Task Force

WHA/CAN accompanied OES A/S Turner to a meeting of the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and its Regional Working Group in Chicago. The two-hour meeting, which was chaired by EPA Administrator Leavitt, was designed to advance Leavitt's Great Lakes Collaboration (GLC), a process intended to draw in the states and localities and Canada. The meeting covered process issues that had been discussed as the initial meeting in Washington two weeks ago. Leavitt has not yet formally engaged Canada (waiting for the new cabinet) but Canada is already

concerned that attention to the GLC will detract from other initiatives, notably review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. (Nelson)

10. (SBU) Victoria M

EPA and State met to discuss next steps in the saga of the Victoria M - the dilapidated fishing boat for which EPA mistakenly gave a permit to be scuttled on the Canadian side of the marine boundary (in prime fishing grounds). Canada's consistent position has been that the boat must be removed.

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Preliminary estimates for removing the boat range from \$3 million to \$10 million.

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11. (U) Daily Activity Report, Thursday, July 19

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12. (SBU) New cabinet to be sworn in tomorrow

PM Paul Martin will unveil his cabinet selections for his minority government tomorrow morning, in a 10:30 swearing-in by the Governor-General. We expect Martin to shuffle his cabinet fairly significantly, not just replacing ministers who were voted out of office, such as at Defense and Agriculture. Martin's first team was largely seen as a "caretaker government" until he could receive his own mandate, but receiving less than a majority of votes in the June election has changed the calculus for who would be best in which position, especially the House leadership position. Martin may even name a new Minister of Foreign Affairs and move Bill Graham to Defense. Canadian media

reports are full of speculation as to who will be in the new cabinet, but Martin's inner circle isn't talking. In making his decisions, Martin will seek to balance regions, gender, ethnicity, expertise and the Martin and Chretien wings of the Liberal party. (Clifton)

13. (U) Canada again decides to withdraw Ambassador to Iran

Canada yesterday recalled its ambassador to Iran, Philip MacKinnon, after Tehran abruptly halted the trial of the accused killer of Iranian-Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi. Ottawa announced last week that its intention to recall MacKinnon, only to reverse its decision once Iran agreed to allow Canadian diplomats to attend the trial. (Clifton)

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